

hard work and dedication by its members to provide quality fire protection services for over a century.

Formed in 1874, just after a major fire which nearly resulted in the destruction of the entire town, the Katonah Fire Department has grown to over 100 active, hardworking volunteer firemen and emergency medical service personnel.

The history of this incredible organization has turned out to be a long and illustrious story of bravery and commitment to the residents of Katonah. They have progressed dramatically over the 125 years of existence from an old horse and carriage to the fire-fighting tactics and equipment of today.

Today, more than ever, all over the country, we need people to volunteer to serve in our local fire and ambulance corps. The people of Katonah are proud of our men and women who volunteer to risk their lives every day to respond to any emergency at a moment's notice.

Congratulations to them. Let us salute them on this auspicious occasion for the undaunted hard work they do to make Katonah a safer place.

#### FLAG DAY

(Mr. TRAFICANT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TRAFICANT. Madam Speaker, in America it is illegal to burn trash, but we can burn the flag. It is illegal to remove a label from a mattress, but we can literally rip the stars and stripes off our flag. It is illegal to damage a mailbox, but we can destroy our flag.

Beam me up. A people that does not honor and respect their flag is a people that does not honor and respect their country nor their neighbors.

Today is Flag Day. I say if we want to make a political statement, we can burn our bras, burn our BVDs, but we should leave Old Glory alone. Every day should be Flag Day.

#### TRANSPORTING MINORS ACROSS STATE LINES FOR ABORTION SHOULD BE FEDERAL MISDEMEANOR

(Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Madam Speaker, yesterday a subcommittee approved a bill to make it a Federal misdemeanor for strangers to transport minor girls across State lines in order to avoid State abortion parental consent or notification laws. My bill is designed to punish those who take teenagers to other States for a secret abortion, thereby deceiving parents and avoiding the parental consent laws.

This commonsense legislation, which currently enjoys the support of almost 130 Members, will prevent our children from falling prey to strangers. The idea that any nonparent can take one's 13-year-old daughter to another State for a secret and potentially fatal abortion should be appalling to any parent and should convince this Congress to move swiftly on the bill.

I commend the members of the Subcommittee on the Constitution of the Committee on the Judiciary for protecting the basic right of parents to participate in all decisions involving their minor children, and I ask that the Committee on the Judiciary and the full House do the same as soon as possible.

#### CRA

(Mr. MEEKS of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MEEKS of New York. Madam Speaker, as we seek to provide banks and other financial companies with an environment that would allow them to expand their powers and become more competitive globally, it is our responsibility to make certain that our constituents, the financial institutions' customers, are also provided with an environment that would allow them to prosper.

Since 1977, banks and thrifts have made over \$1 trillion in loan pledges to low-income areas. CRA investments have been widely credited with dramatically increasing home ownership, restoring distressed communities, and helping small businesses and meeting the unique credit needs of rural America.

I cosponsored an amendment offered in the Committee on Banking and Financial Services that would make bank affiliates that sell bank-like financial products subject to CRA review on those products. If they want to play on the same ball field they have to play by the same rules.

If this amendment is enacted in the House, on the House floor, bank affiliates will be pleasantly surprised to see that the same result will occur as my banking colleagues did; there is a profit to be made in low-income rural and minority communities.

CRA has been good for banks and great for our communities.

#### VIOLENCE AMONG OUR YOUTH

(Mr. EWING asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. EWING. Madam Speaker, school violence and violence in society concerns all of us. What do we do about it? Well, we have tried gun control. We have insisted on parental control. We

have suggested the schools could control more.

I do not believe our young people are born violent. It can be learned. We have found that out in the culture of the Hitler Nazi regime where he taught his youth, or there may be other ways that we can learn violence.

In America, we have allowed a culture of violence to promote it, besides guns, besides lack of parental control. What is that? It is our movies, our television, our video games.

I would like to see more leadership in addressing the thing that our students spend more time with. Let us try strict liability with television, videos and movies.

#### BOMBING FOR PEACE

(Mr. KUCINICH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, bombing for peace. This is the new strategy from NATO. While engaging in peace negotiations, NATO has intensified the bombing. Bombing for peace.

During peace talks, B-52s dropped cluster bombs along the Kosovo-Albania borders. NATO says that as a result about 600 Serb troops in the field were pulverized by the cluster bombs during peace talks. Besides those troops killed, there will be countless Kosovars and Serbs injured by thousands of cluster bombs which will remain unexploded until discovered by accident, by children playing, by people walking home to Kosovo.

Peace bombs. There is no such thing as bombing for peace. We bomb for war; we negotiate for peace. We cannot do both at once and keep credibility. Let us hope we can finally get a peace agreement and let us demand an end to the bombing.

#### MINORITY LEADER WOULD CUT DEFENSE AND RAISE TAXES

(Mr. HEFLEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HEFLEY. Madam Speaker, the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. GEPHARDT), the House minority leader, was apparently caught off guard recently and said out loud what he really thinks about defense spending and about taxes. He said, and I quote, and I have it on this chart, "You have got to have a combination of taking it out of the defense budget and raising revenue. We can argue about how to do that, closing loopholes or even raising taxes to do it."

That is right. He proposed to raise taxes and cut defense. And then, even more amazing is that he was given a chance to clarify his remarks in a letter to the editor of the Washington